

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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KYODAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS STUDY COMMISSION REPORTS ON LABOR

The Social Problems Study Commission of the Kyodan has prepared a report on "The Labor Movement in Japan from the Viewpoint of Christianity" as a result of several study conferences held during the past year. Labor Union experts, representatives of management and labor union leaders were all invited to present their viewpoints to the conferences. The chairman of the Commission, which was organized last year, is Hidenobu Kuwata, president of the Kyodan Theological Seminary.

The statement prepared by the commission is as follows:

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IN JAPAN FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF CHRISTIANITY

1. The Labor Union Movement, called the "Democratic School" carries great significance for the democratization of Japan, especially the democratization of economy and industry and the self-sufficiency of Japanese economy. It may be fairly said that the destiny of Japan, now facing a severe crisis, depends upon conditions in the Labor Union Movement which is the support of the working masses.

2. Therefore, the Government should improve and stimulate the sound development of the Labour Union Movement, clearing away obstacles hindering its growth instead of bearing down with violent hands of oppression and obstructing the Movement. Also, employers in both private and public enterprise should recognize this Movement, which aims at achieving the rights of life and labour, as a collaborator on equal terms; and cooperating this Movement should work for the development of the democratization, rationalization and autonomy of national economy, industry and management, and to work for the practical realization of social righteousness.

3. But, most important of all, the Labor Union Movement itself should correctly realize its own significant mission for the reconstruction of Japan, and strengthen itself in a sound manner. In particular it must be emphasized that the Labor Union Movement of our country, which was strengthened in quantity by the ideals and social confusion following the military defeat, is really weak and has not been strengthened in quality. In this respect, the leaders of the Labour Movement in Japan bear a very heavy responsibility. In other words, the Labour Union should not attempt to make the scene of struggle but rather as a place for the harmony of labour and capital, with increasing production and increased shared profits; at the same time, working in the interests

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of all classes and for the reconstruction of the mother country. Laborers must be taught to respect duties humility that in England the Labor Unions, which are a strong and stabilizing force in the government and national economy through their pursuit of a balanced democracy and of social righteousness, is not an organization based on the Marxist principle of class struggle, but rather on the Christian tradition and spirit.

4. The Christian church must recognize sufficiently and have due appreciation of the strategic significance of the Labour Movement for the democratization and economic independence of Japan. Furthermore, it is hoped that the Christian church through evangelism, education and study, can render great service to the development of a sound Labour Movement based upon the Christian spirit instead of class struggle, as the church helps enhance the dignity of the individual, a spirit of toleration and cooperation, and senses of social righteousness and social service.

LABOR PROBLEMS AND MSA DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE

About 150 pastors and Christian laymen attended the Kyodan Social Problems Conference on "Labor Problems and MSA" held from Jan. 12-14 at the Christian Center. The conference was primarily for discussion and study, and no statement was prepared. Since those who attended were not official representatives, their opinions could not be regarded as reflecting the opinion of any majority within the Kyodan. It is interesting to note, however, that the general feeling of the conference seemed to be one of coolness toward MSA, inasmuch as the passage of MSA would necessarily involve altering the "peace" constitution permit rearmament. One of the chief reasons for opposing this change seemed to be the fear that militarism would make a comeback.

Labor Problems were discussed on the first day, with Kohei Goshi, General Secretary of the Keizai Dōyūkai (Association of Capitalists) presenting management's viewpoint. He criticized the regular seasonal strikes staged by the unions for repeated raise as being very detrimental to the national economy when it is already in a very poor condition. Minoru Takano, General Secretary of Sōhyō, the Left Wing Labor Union Association gave the rebuttal for labor. Kiyochi Ebata, editorial writer for the Asahi Shimbun gave the final speech of the day and tried to strike a middle ground. He emphasized the present poor economic situation, with high imports and low exports leading to a steady loss of dollars. He took note of the fact that the cost of living has risen greatly and certain raises seem necessary to preserve a minimum standard of living for the worker. His conclusion was that both labor and capital should work for a compromise in the interests of national security.

On the second day, Tokutaro Kitamura, a Christian member of the Kaishinto (Conservative) party opened the discussion on MSA. He emphasized that Japan in her present economic condition needs MSA help to get along. Seiichi Katsumata, a Social Democrat left wing Diet member spoke against MSA and rearmament. He contended that extended trade with foreign countries including China, was the solution to Japan's present economic difficulties and that rearmament and MSA would not be good for Japan. Umesaburo Inoue, editorial writer for the Mainichi Shimbun gave a resume of the stands of the various political parties on the issue.

Discussion on the final day was on "What Shall I do as a Christian Today?" Christian Diet members Motojiro Sugiyama (Right Social Democrat)

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and Tamotsu Hasegawa (Left Social Democrat) and other Christian businessmen and writers entered the discussion.

BISHOP MARTIN RETURNS TO USA

Having completed his mission in Korea and Japan, Bishop Martin, president of the NCCCUSA returned to the US in the middle of January. The Bishop read a formal statement of greetings from the NCCCUSA to the National Christian Council and all Christians in Japan at a reception given for him by the NCC on Dec. 18. The Statement which was adopted by the General Board of the NCCCUSA reads as follows:

On the occasion of the visit to Japan of Bishop William C. Martin, President of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. we send our greetings and good wishes through him to the National Christian Council and the Christian people of Japan.

Especially at the Christmas season, when we in both lands, together with Christians everywhere, celebrate the coming into the world of our Lord Jesus Christ with His message of reconciliation and redemption, we are deeply conscious of our unity of purpose in Christ and the glorious hope that is our common heritage.

We rejoice in the spiritual vitality of the Christian Church in Japan and in its deepening sense of responsibility for the evangelization of the entire nation. We are deeply interested in the plans for the Centenary Movement, with its emphasis upon evangelistic outreach by all the churches, as a fitting commemoration of one hundred years of Protestant Christian work in your land. We appreciate your concern for the welfare of American and other foreign service men in your midst, and the labors of the Christian forces of Japan to improve moral and social conditions in many areas of your national life.

We rejoice in every manifestation of Christian unity, and particularly for the cooperation which makes possible the work of the Japan National Christian Council and its related organizations. We pray that God will richly bless the work of the Christian Church in Japan, that in these days of great need, great opportunity and great decision, your witness to the redeeming power of Christ may be a fervent and effectual one.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS DEDICATE RETREAT GROUNDS AT HAKONE

The Southern Baptists dedicated a new retreat center at Hakone on January 20. The grounds total 12,000 tsubo and 270 tsubo 2 story building, and a smaller 60 tsubo building have been erected. They will provide housing for 200 people. The cost of the project is 2,400,000 yen, of which \$5,000 was donated by the Yokohama Army Womens Evangelistic Club. The project has been a dream of Mrs. C.K. Dozier, wife of the former president of the Baptist College Seinan Gakuin, for many years. Mrs. Dozier is the mother of Baptist Missionary Edwin B. Dozier who is now at work in Japan. The center is located near Hakone at the Yugashima Hot Springs, and will be used for summer camps, and conferences

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as well as retreats.

RETREAT FOR UNITED CHURCH MISSIONARIES

A retreat for over 350 missionaries working within the United Church of Christ in Japan will be held at Yumoto, Japan, from March 30 to April 2, 1954. The guest speaker will be Dr. Emil Brunner, famous Swiss theologian now teaching at International Christian University. There will be an opening sermon by Dr. Michio Kozaki, Moderator of the Church of Christ in Japan. There will also be discussion groups and a service of witness; and the retreat will close with the Holy Communion service.

NATIONAL YMCA RURAL YOUTH LEADERS TO CONFER AT GOTEMBA

The National YMCA Rural Youth Leaders conference will be held at Gotemba Tozanso from January 27-29. About 30 representatives will attend the conference which will discuss YM work in rural areas.

